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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Larson et al. Confirmation No.: 7146
Serial No.: 10/645,136 Art Unit: 3733
Filed: August 20, 2003 Examiner: Philogene, Pedro
For: GUIDED RETRACTOR AND Attorney Docket No.: 8932-973-999
METHODS OF USE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ A list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office.
- 1b. A legible copy of :
- ☒ Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449;
- ☐ For each cited pending unpublished U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or portion of the application which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449 including any claims directed to that portion that have been checked to be unavailable at the USPTO's private PAIR system;
- ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or PCT International Search Report;
- ☐ Explanations of relevancy (ATTACHMENT 1(d), hereto) or English language abstracts of the non-English language publications;
- ☐ All other information or portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449.
- 1c. ☒ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of the cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not submitted herewith unless required by the office.
- 1d. ☐ Pursuant to 1287 OG 163, copies of cited pending unpublished applications that are available at the USPTO's private PAIR system are not submitted herewith.

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

- ☐ Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);
- ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application;
- ☒ Before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits;
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), but before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

(Check either Item 3a or 3b)

- 3a. ☐ The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable. Accordingly, no fee is required.
- 3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) is:
- ☐ enclosed.
 - ☐ to be charged to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

(Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)

4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), but on or before the date of payment of the issue fee.

The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable.

The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:

- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

5. ☐ Certification Statement (applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked):

(Check either Item 5a or 5b)

- 5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), it is certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 5b. ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not **received** by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 5c. ☐ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d), each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not **received** by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

6. ☐ This application is a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) or (d).

(Check appropriate Items 6a, 6b and/or 6c)

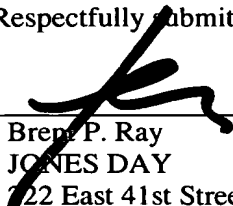
- 6a. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5) is concurrently filed herewith.
- 6b. ☐ Copies of publications listed on Form PTO-1449 from prior application Serial No. , filed on , of which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, are not being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).
- 6c. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on Form PTO-1449 were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. , filed on , and are provided herewith.
7. ☒ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. (Check Item 7a)
- 7a. ☒ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 17, 2003 and August 11, 2005. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement can be considered as if properly filed on November 17, 2003.
8. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check Item 8a, 8b, or 8c)

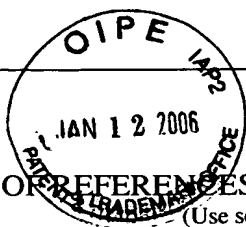
- 8a. ☐ Satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.
- 8b. ☐ Set forth in the application.
- 8c. ☐ Enclosed as an attachment hereto.
9. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required or credit any overpayment for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.
10. ☒ No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability and no representation is made that a search has been made (other than a search report of a foreign counterpart application or PCT International Search Report if submitted herewith). 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 12, 2006


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LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

8932-973-999

APPLICATION NO.

10/645,136

APPLICANT

Larson et al.

FILING DATE

August 20, 2003

GROUP

3732

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A01	6,102,852	8/2000	Liu			
	A02	5,976,146	11/2/1999	Ogawa et al.			
	A03	5,569,300	10/1996	Redmon			
	A04	5,395,317	3/7/1995	Kambin			
	A05	5,312,417	5/17/1994	Wilk			
	A06	5,197,971	3/30/1993	Bonutti			
	A07	5,131,382	7/21/1992	Meyer			
	A08	5,071,410	3/14/1991	Pazell			
	A09	3,044,461	7/17/1962	Murdock			
	A10	835,968	11/1906	Mennes			
	A11						
	A12						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	B01							
	B02							
	B03							
	B04							
	B05							
	B06							
	B07							
	B08							
	B09							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	C01	Thongtrangan et al., "Minimally invasive spinal surgery: a historical perspective," Neurosurg Focus 16 (1): Article 13, 2004.
	C02	Muller et al., "A Keyhole Approach for Endoscopically Assisted Pedicle Screw Fixation in Lumbar Spine Instability," Neurosurgery, Vol. 47, No. 1, July 2000.
	C03	Duncan J. Turner, "A New, Radially Expanding Access System for Laparoscopic Procedures versus Conventional Cannulas," The Journal of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, Vol. 3, No. 4, August 1996.
	C04	Parviz Kambin, "The Role of Minimally Invasive Surgery in Spinal Disorders," Advances in Operative Orthopedics, Vol. 3, pp. 147-171, 1995.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED